

Application No. 10/648,890
Docket No. 0220-011

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application; of these, claims 1, 11 and 14 are in independent form. Claim 10 has been amended by the foregoing amendment.

Applicants thank the Examiner for providing an indication allowable subject matter as well as for consideration, and making a record, of documents submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS).

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph as lacking sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the first and second support members”. It is believed that this rejection has been overcome by the foregoing amendment.

Claims 1, 10, 14-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,993 (“Youngblood et al.”). Claims 1, 6, 10, 14, 16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,834,327 (“Byrne”).

Applicants request traversal of these rejections and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Applicants’ invention is directed to line support systems. As recited in claim 1 for example, the line support of Applicants’ invention comprises a support member having an elongate body forming a loop, the support member configured such that a positive biasing force is provided at a distal end of the line support wherein a first support arm and a second support arm are biased to abut one another and capable of separation at the distal end of the line support when a sufficient force is applied to overcome the biasing force. The line support also comprises an alignment retainer located at distal ends of the first and second support arms and capable of

Application No. 10/648,890
Docket No. 0220-011

assisting in positioning the first and second support arms in abutment and a bias adjustment mechanism selectively positionable about the first and second support arms and configured such that the biasing force is selectively adjustable.

Youngblood describes a climbing anchor which includes a rope or cable 20 with two ends 21 and 22, a chock body 10 and a yoke 24 (Figs. 2 and 3C). The chock body 10 of Youngblood (analogized to alignment retainer 60 of Applicants' invention in the Office Action), however, is not at the same (i.e. distal) end as the loop having a biasing force at the distal end. In addition, cable 20 of Youngblood does not form a loop in the same manner as Applicants' invention. At least one of ends 21 and 22 of cable 20 terminates in chock body 10.

Chock body 10 also does not provide separation at the distal end of the line support. In fact, as described by Youngblood, yoke 24 constrains portions of the cable 20 near chock body 10 in order to provide a circular opening in the cable loop (col. 5, lines 5-7). The cable loop of Youngblood also does not include abutting first and second supporting arms.

Byrne describes a self-adjusting climbing chock which includes cable end sections 3 and 4, fixed wedge element 5 and compression spring 25. Compression spring 25 of Byrne (analogized to adjustment mechanism 70 of Applicants' invention in the Office Action), however, does not provide bias adjustment mechanism wherein a first support arm and a second support arm are biased to abut one another. Compression spring 25 of Byrne simply provides a mechanism for adjusting translating wedge element 15 in relation to fixed wedge element 5 in order to secure climbing chock 1 within a crevice 31 (Figs. 3A-3C and col. 4, lines 21 to 42).

Furthermore, as with Youngblood described above, cable end section 3 and 5 of Byrne

Application No. 10/648,890
Docket No. 0220-011

terminate in fixed wedge element 5 (col. 3, lines 16 to 31) and as such fail to form a loop as in Applicants' invention.

As Youngblood and Byrne fail to disclose each and every element in claim 1, Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 is not anticipated by Youngblood or Byrne. The deficiencies highlighted are also equally applicable to Applicants' invention as recited in claim 14.

At least for these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 14 are allowable. The remaining claims, all of which depend on one of claims 1 and 14 are also allowable.

All of the rejections having been overcome, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to expediting the prosecution of this application, she is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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